



Norman Cross
Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

UPON THE

Sanitary Condition of the District
during the year 1939.

To the Norman Cross Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN & MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Sanitary Conditions of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1939.

Considerable time was spent during the year in connection with additional duties which arose as a direct result of the Civil Defence programme; these efforts were intensified on the outbreak of hostilities and consequently some curtailment of normal routine work resulted.

The outstanding feature of the year, however, was the mass-movement by the Ministry under the Government Evacuation Scheme of expectant mothers, women with young children, and unaccompanied school children from the dangerous industrial areas into the safer areas of the country. These evacuees brought with them problems of many sorts with which the small staffs of the Reception Areas had to contend and to solve; these problems, however, will no doubt be discussed at a more appropriate time.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health	D. S. BUCHANAN, M.B.,B.S.,B.Hy.,D.P.H.
Sanitary Inspector	H. W. HAWKINS, A.R.S.I.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	35795 acres
Estimated Population (mid 1939)	7299
(mid 1938)	7074
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1939	2186
Rateable Value	£28,482
Value of Penny Rate	£119

The Norman Cross Rural District consists of 16 parishes, a number of which are situated on the extensive deposit of Oxford Clay which forms the Fletton Brickfields in which a great many inhabitants of the district find employment.

With this exception the population is solely employed in agriculture. The South Western portion of the district is Fen Lands, land recovered by an extensive drainage system some fifty years ago, from what was formerly Whittlesea Mere.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS	TOTAL	M.	F.
Legitimate	116	62	54
Illegitimate	5	4	1
	<hr/> 121	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 17.1	
STILL BIRTHS	5	2	3
		Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births 39.6	
DEATHS	87	51	36
		Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 11.9	
		Death Rate adjusted 10.59	

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List):—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis	—	—
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes	—	—
Total	Nil	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of age:--

All infants per 1,000 live births	.....	.....	.....	49.1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	.....			51.2
Illegitimate „ „ „ illegitimate „ „	.....			Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	.....	.....	.....	13
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	.....	.....	.....	Nil

RATES

	Per 1,000 Population			Per 1,000 Live Births
	Live Births	Still Births	Death Rate	Infantile Mortality
Norman Cross R.D.C.	17.1	0.70	10.5	49.1
England & Wales	15.0	0.59	12.1	50
London (Adm. County)	12.3	0.44	11.9	48
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	14.8	0.59	12.0	53
148 Smaller Towns	15.6	0.57	11.2	40

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar-General's figures):—

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Males	Females	Totals
All Causes.		51	36	87
1	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	—	—	—
2	Measles	—	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	—	—	—
5	Diphtheria	1	—	1
6	Influenza	3	—	3
7	Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—
8	Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	—
9	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	2	3
10	Other Tuberculous diseases	—	—	—
11	Syphilis	—	—	—
12	General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	1	—	1
13	Cancer, Malignant disease	9	4	13
14	Diabetes	—	1	1
15	Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	4	4	8
16	Heart Disease	12	12	24
17	Aneurysm	—	—	—
18	Other circulatory diseases	2	—	2
19	Bronchitis	2	—	2
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	2	1	3
21	Other respiratory diseases	—	—	—
22	Peptic Ulcer	—	—	—
23	Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	—	—	—
24	Appendicitis	—	—	—
25	Cirrhosis of Liver	—	—	—
26	Other diseases of liver, etc.	—	—	—
27	Other digestive diseases	—	—	—
28	Acute and chronic nephritis	1	1	2
29	Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—
30	Other puerperal causes	—	—	—
31	Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	3	1	4
32	Senility	1	5	6
33	Suicide	—	—	—
34	Other violence	1	1	2
35	Other defined diseases	8	3	11
36	Causes ill-defined or unknown	—	1	1

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(a) **Laboratory Facilities :**

Bacteriological specimens from Practitioners in the district are examined and reported upon at the Pathological Department of the Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.

Under the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Scheme, specimens may be sent for Bacteriological examination to the Pathological Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities :—**

- (1) For the removal of infectious cases a motor ambulance is available at the Isolation Hospital, Huntingdon.
- (2) For non-infectious and accident cases excellent provision is made by Peterborough City Authority and London Brick Company.

A further ambulance is now available to meet the requirements of the district by the provision of an ambulance by the Hunts. County Council. This ambulance is stationed at Stilton.

(c) **Nursing in the Home :—**

Nursing in the district is carried on by the District Nursing Associations under the supervision of the County Council. The nurses employed carry out the general nursing in the district, attend the majority of maternity cases and act as Health Visitors.

No provision is made for the home visiting of Measles, Whooping Cough and Infantile Diarrhoea.

All cases of Tuberculosis are visited by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor and a report with details of home conditions and circumstances is completed.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres:—

The Hunts. County Council provide the following health services:—

School Clinic (Minor Ailment)	.....	High Street, Old Fletton, Every Wenesday 9-30—12.
Eyes	.....	Consultant's Rooms. By Appt.
Dental Clinic	.....	High Street, Old Fletton, Every Wednesday 9-30—12 1-30—4
Tuberculosis	.....	High Street, Old Fletton, Monthly 2nd Wednesday 1-30—4
Orthopaedic	.....	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month at 2-30 p.m. By Appt.
Nose, Throat & Ear Clinic.....		Memorial Hospital every Wednesday at 3 p.m. By Appt.
Veneral Diseases	.....	28, Fitzwilliam Street, Peterborough. Men—Tuesday and Friday 6—8 p.m. Women—Tuesday and Friday 3-30—6 p.m.

Under the Ante and Post Natal Scheme, provided by the County Council, expectant mothers are examined twice during their pregnancy (or oftener if necessary) and once after confinement.

(e) Hospitals—Public and Voluntary :—

- (1) Fever—The treatment of infectious diseases is carried out at the Hospital for Infectious Diseases at Huntingdon, which is provided by the Joint Hospital Board.
- (2) The Peterborough Memorial Hospital continues to carry out the general hospital service in the district. At this hospital facilities for In-patient and Out-patient treatment of General Medical or Surgical Cases are available.

(3) Maternity Hospital :—

Provision is made for the reception of Maternity Cases into either, the hospital at the Huntingdon Institution when home conditions are not suitable for the management, or, the Memorial Hospital Peterborough when complications make it desirable or necessitous.

Subsequent to the arrival of expectant mothers under the Government Evacuation Scheme further accommodation for Maternity Cases was required and, as a result, an Emergency Maternity Hospital was opened by the Hunts. County Council at Paxton Park.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water :

Since the last official report considerable progress has been made in the scheme for establishing a mains water supply throughout the area. During the past twelve months the existing mains have been extended to cover the villages of Orton Waterville, Alwalton and Chesterton while the main supplying the village of Farcet has been extended to supply Farcet Fen. In addition to these developments satisfactory progress has been made in the laying of the main to supply the village of Elton.

The undertaking of supplying the water to Orton Waterville, Alwalton and Chesterton necessitated the incorporation of some device to boost the water pressure. For this purpose a pumping station was erected at Orton Longueville and two electrically driven pumps were installed; a third pump is being installed for the additional supply to Elton.

The water supply for the district is obtained from the Peterborough Corporation Water Undertaking and purchased in bulk.

Bacteriological and chemical analysis elicit the fact that the supply is of a high standard of purity but rather hard in character. Samples for Bacteriological examination are taken weekly.

There are a good many wells still in use, the supply from which, it is hoped, will be replaced by water from the public mains.

Sewerage :—

Sanitary conditions of the district remain very much the same as in previous years and very few conversions from pail closets to W.C's are made.

A logical sequence to the mains water supply would be the consideration of the development of sewerage schemes followed by conversion schemes to complete water-borne systems in the larger villages.

Housing :—

During the year a survey of the housing conditions in the district was commenced, but little progress had been made when, as a result of additional and more essential duties due to the outbreak of hostilities, it had to be placed in abeyance.

10 plans for new houses were submitted for the approval of the Council during the year and throughout that period 11 new houses were erected, all by private enterprise.

The new Building Byelaws were confirmed by the Minister of Health on the 15th day of July, 1939.

No legal proceedings were taken during the year.

Alwalton Lynch Inquiry.

Plans for the establishment of a Colony of summer huts at Alwalton Lynch were submitted for the approval of the Council by a Syndicate and on the refusal of the Council to approve of these plans on sanitary grounds, an appeal was made to the Ministry of Health by the Syndicate concerned.

At the Inquiry held by the Ministry of Health in the Town Hall, Peterborough, evidence was heard from both parties and as a result of this the Ministry confirmed the action of the Council.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**Milk Supply :—**

There are 75 registered cowkeepers in the district.

The cowsheds and dairies were regularly inspected and the conditions of these found to be satisfactory.

Meat and other Foods :—

The slaughter-houses and bakehouses were inspected regularly throughout the year were found to be conducted in a satisfactory manner.

In pursuance of the powers conferred on them by Section 96 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938 and Section 320 Subsection (1) of the Public Health Act 1936, the District Council and the County Council agreed that the functions and powers of the District Council conferred by the Food and Drugs Act 1938 should be relinquished in favour of and transferred to the County Council.

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SIR,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1939.

Number of Inspections	326
Total number of Notices served Informal 16	
Statutory 5	21
Complaints received	21

Of the 16 Informal notices served all were complied with, while of the 5 Statutory Notices 4 were complied with before the close of the year.

	No. Inspected	Nuisances abated
Premises, Houses etc.	326	21
Pool, ditch, gutter, watercourse.....	1	1
Privy, urinal, cesspool, ashpit.....	3	7
Drain, draintrap etc.	304	3
Offensive accumulations	3	3
Other Sanitary Conditions	326	21
Slaughter Houses	10	18
Privy—middens	New provided	Nil
	Number repaired	5
	Number converted to pails.....	2
	Number converted to W.C's	2
Pail & Earth Closets	New provided	5
	Number converted to W.C's	6
Water Closets	New provided	13

FACTORIES ACT 1937.

The total number of factories registered in the district is 33 this number includes 9 Bakehouses. Regular inspection of these premises have been made in pursuance of the Factory Act. There are no Underground Bakehouses in the district. No complaints were notified during the year by the Inspector of Factories.

MEAT INSPECTION.

There are 10 Licensed Slaughter houses in the area; regular visits have been made to these premises and during the past twelve months the undermentioned 6 carcasses were surrendered as unfit for food for human consumption.

5 pig carcasses
1 heifer carcass

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Inspections have been periodically made of the dairies and cowsheds. In isolated cases there has been difficulty over a clean water supply, but this will gradually be remedied to a large extent as the laying of the water mains proceeds.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

All cases of infectious disease reported by the Medical Officer of Health were investigated and reported upon. Terminal disinfection was carried out in cases not removed to hospital and in cases of removal to hospital the disinfection was carried out at the earliest possible moment after removal of the case.

H. W. HAWKINS, A.R.S.I.

Sanitary Inspector.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases.

Additions to the list of notifiable infectious diseases occurred as a result of the Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations made by the Minister of Health which came into force on 1st November, 1939.

During the past year there were only sporadic cases of infectious disease.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1939.

DISEASE	TOTAL											Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
	under 1 year	1 — 2	2 — 3	3 — 4	4 — 5	5 — 10	10 — 15	15 — 20	20 — 35	35 — 45	45 — 65	65 & upwards	
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	1	—	3	2	—	1	—	1	—	1
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	—	—	3
Measles	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	1	—	—	9	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	2	1	—

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Recognising the possibility of outbreaks of infectious disease resulting from mass immigration into the district, all arrangements were made to commence an intensive drive for the immunisation of children against diphtheria.

The Scheme was completed by the end of the year, and ready for the initial drive to take place in the new year.

Tuberculosis.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
25	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
45	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
55								
65 & upwards.....	1							
TOTAL :—	5	3	2	1	1	2	—	—

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act 1936 dealing with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

D. S. BUCHANAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

